

# UN Joint Programming Missions

## United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

The Task Force conducts UN Joint Programming Missions to support UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in their efforts to provide technical assistance to governments as they seek to develop and implement national non-communicable disease (NCD) responses which contribute to the NCD-related targets in the SDGs.

With a few years before the world is expected to meet the SDG targets, these missions provide the opportunity for the UN System to work as one to engage with a range of government ministries and their development partners to promote whole-of-government and whole-of society action.



Reducing the burden of NCDs and improving mental health remains a leading health and development challenge. The legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic has only made things harder.

7 of the 10 leading causes of death are NCDs – ischaemic heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, forms of dementia, and diabetes.

The prevalence of tobacco use is declining in all WHO regions and globally, but the rate of decline is insufficient to meet the voluntary global target for 2025. Alcohol consumption remains a huge health and development challenge. Polluted air contributes to 6.7 million deaths annually, with 85 per cent of those deaths being linked to NCDs.

More than one in four adults and more than 80 per cent of adolescents do not meet the levels of physical

activity recommended by WHO. This, combined with unhealthy diet, has led to over 2 billion adults being overweight, including more than 650 million obese individuals, and 37 million children under 5 years of age being overweight.

Close to 1 billion people live with a mental disorder, including around 8 per cent of the world's young children and 14 per cent of the world's adolescents. Four out of five of those people live in low- and middle-income countries.

The WHO global NCD and comprehensive mental health action plans, 2013-2030, alongside a set of cost-effective, evidence-based and feasible interventions provide powerful tools to support country action.\*

\*E.g. [Global NCD action plan](#), [Comprehensive mental health action plan](#), [NCD best buys and other recommended interventions](#), [Compendium of guidance in health and environment](#).

The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs coordinates the activities of UN organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to support governments to implement the high-level commitments emanating from the 2011 and 2018 UN Political Declaration on NCDs, the Outcome Document of the 2014 High-level Meeting on NCDs, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## UN Task Force Joint Programming Missions use as a starting point:



The 2011 and 2018 NCD UN Political Declaration, 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



The WHO NCD Global Monitoring Framework to track global, regional, and national progress in addressing the burden of NCDs.



The WHO NCD Country Profiles which provides an overview of the NCD situation in each country.



The WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2030, in particular the set of cost-effective and affordable interventions for all countries, and policy options to promote a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response to reducing risk factors and enabling health systems to respond.



Terms of Reference for the Task Force, including a division of tasks and responsibilities between Task Force members.

## The 9 voluntary global targets for the prevention and control of NCDs to be attained by 2025

### TARGET 1

A 1/3 relative reduction in mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases.

### TARGET 2

A 20% relative reduction in the harmful use of alcohol, as appropriate, within the national context.

### TARGET 3

A 15% relative reduction in prevalence of insufficient physical activity.

### TARGET 4

A 30% relative reduction in mean population intake of salt/sodium.

### TARGET 5

A 30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use.

### TARGET 6

A 25% relative reduction in the prevalence of raised blood pressure or contain the prevalence of raised blood pressure, according to national circumstances.

### TARGET 7

Halt the rise in diabetes and obesity.

### TARGET 8

At least 50% of eligible people receive drug therapy and counselling (including glycemic control) to prevent heart attacks and strokes.

### TARGET 9

An 80% availability of affordable basic technologies and essential medicines, including generics required to treat major NCDs in both public and private facilities.

# Steps in undertaking a Joint Programming Mission

## STEP 1

**Preliminary Discussions:** The Ministry of Health, WHO and other key UN agencies have initial discussions with the Task Force Secretariat to assess the potential and focus areas of a joint mission, which will guide the development of a concept note. The joint mission can combine NCDs and mental health with other health and development priorities.



## STEP 2

**Official Invitation:** The Government sends an official letter of invitation requesting the Task Force to conduct a joint mission. This can be routed through the UN Resident Coordinator, WHO country and/or regional office, or directly to the Task Force Secretariat ([unncttaskforce@who.int](mailto:unncttaskforce@who.int)).



## STEP 3

**Terms of Reference (ToRs):** The Task Force Secretariat supports the Government and UNCT draft ToRs for the joint mission.



## STEP 5

**Mission execution:** Meetings are held with ministries, non-State actors, and development partners to discuss their roles in responding to NCDs and explore opportunities to collaborate and scale up action. The mission concludes with a debrief to the Government and UNCT, summarizing findings and recommendations.



## STEP 4

**Mission preparation:** The Government and UNCT, with support from the Task Force Secretariat, develop a 4-to-5-day mission programme, including stakeholder meetings to ensure everyone agrees on the aims and objectives of the mission. Relevant documents are collated and reviewed ahead of the mission.



## STEP 7

**Follow-up:** Missions provide a launchpad for an ever-stronger relationship between the UN system (at country, regional and global levels), in the first instance to ensure that the report's recommendations are implemented. Follow up missions to review progress and promote further action can also be undertaken.

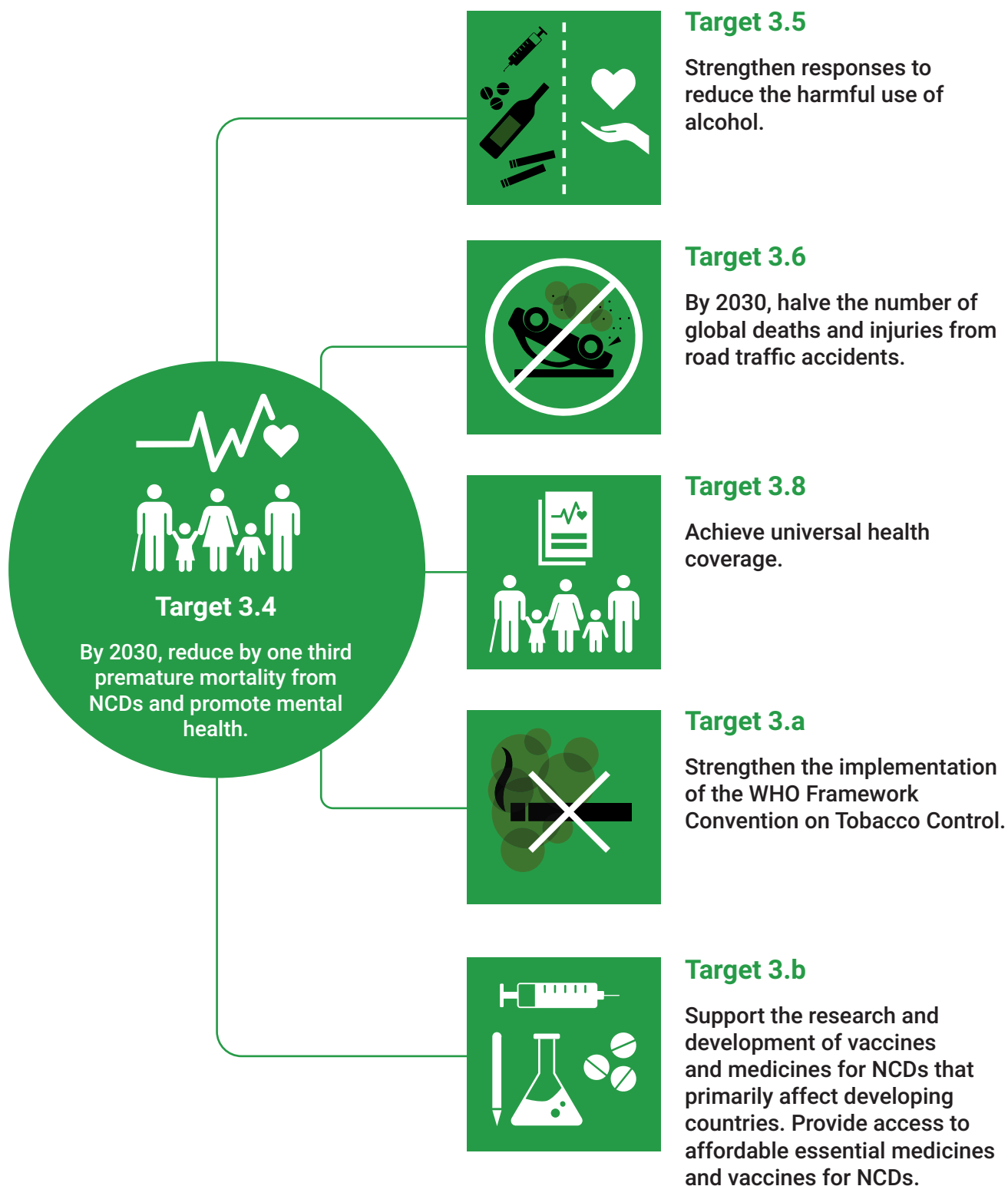


## STEP 6

**Report:** A draft mission report is developed within two weeks of the mission. A final version of the report is sent to the Government for clearance. Ideally, the report is presented to the Cabinet.



## SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing. NCD-relevant targets serving as a focus for the Task Force



# NCD-related SDG targets for 2030



## NCDs

By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.



Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.



Strengthen the implementation of the WHO FCTC in all countries, as appropriate.

Physical activity-related SDGs.



## Violence and injuries

By 2030, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.



Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.



By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.



Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against, and torture of, children.



## Disabilities and rehabilitation

Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.



## Mental health and substance abuse

Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.



## Nutrition

By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.



## Food security (FOS)

By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

By 2030, end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.

By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

The Task Force helps countries to build ambitious national responses to reach the NCD-related targets in 2030. Actions include responding to requests from countries to organize joint programming missions to fast track progress towards these targets, and developing global joint programmes for the participation of all countries.

The work of the Task Force is articulated through its biennial work plan. The Task Force was established by the UN Secretary-General in June 2013 at the request of ECOSOC and placed under WHO's leadership. Its Terms of Reference were adopted by ECOSOC in June 2014.

More information on the Task Force is available at: <https://uniatf.who.int/> or contact [unncttaskforce@who.int](mailto:unncttaskforce@who.int)